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Rational Choice of Farmers in The Peatland Conversion the Gambut sub-district, South Kalimantan

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ABSTRACT

Peatland existence from day to day has decreased. Peatland deficit correlates with increasing development activity. From beginning until now peatlands are always faced with the need for development. The fact of peatland is one of the land that used for the interest of development activities from government and private. This research used qualitative methods with a variety of phenomenology. Data collection techniques used a thick description and data analysis used interactive model with four grooves that is data collection, data reduction, data presentation and conclusion continuously until saturated. Research result shows that farmers become an actor in the conversion process peatlands to other functions. Farmers action to sell peatlands to government and the private sector is rational choice at the time. Although selling land, farmers do not lose land because farmers have land abroad through purchase new land from money sales result peatlands previous.

Keywords: conversion land, farmer, peat land, rational choice.

1. Introduction

The peat areas have been considered in prehistoric times as wasteland, which show that at least parts of the peatlands had been explored in pre-Roman times. The man probably tried to exploit the distinctive character of the peatlands and to use them in ways complementary to the uplands. Darby (1940) has considered the main activities in Medeival Fenland (Lincolnshire, England) and the characteristic of life in these wetlands would not have changed very rapidly in later centuries (Borger, 1992).

Indonesia denote start a four with peatland the widest in the world, with composition, distribution as follows Indonesia 20 million ha, Kanada 170 million ha, Rusia 150 million ha and Amerika Serikat 40 million ha (Euroconsult, 1984). In Canada an estimated 127,2 ha x 10 ha of wetland occurs, some 14% of the surface area. Peatlands account for 88% of all wetlands (Glooschenko, Tarnocai, Zoltai, & Glooschenko, 1993).

Thereafter distribution of peatland Indonesia based interpretation Citra Landsat mention region Sumatera 10.888.199 ha, region Kalimantan 10.385.047 ha, region Papua 10. 682.262 ha, region Sulawesi 89. 446 ha and region Jawa 89.446 ha (Environment of Ministry, 2012). This peat land mean as a plant residue formed naturally through long-term decomposition processes, accumulating in swamp areas or static reservoirs (Osaki et.al, 2016). Dynamics peatland in the map of peat land by Wahyunto et.al year 2003-2006 with map peatland by Sofyan Return et.al year 2011, estimates from

year 2004 until the year 2011 (along seven years) peat land region, Sumatra diminish 10,7%, region Kalimantan diminishes 17,2% and region Papua diminish 28,8% (Wahyunto, 2015).

Special region Kalimantan distribution of peatland is four provinces, which is West Kalimantan, centre Kalimantan, east Kalimantan and south Kalimantan. In south Kalimantan existence peatland the widest there at regency Banjar, is Gambut sub-district. The widest peat land this opened since 1920 and into the region century rice production. But from year to year peat land experience shrinking with switching function a land used for government interest and private sector interest.

Indicated a case with phenomenon in Beijing, which farmers concurrent business in suburban areas, and rural households' willingness on rural residential land consolidation, impacting factors have the common and specific characteristics (Zhou et al., 2017).

From year to year peat land experience conversion a land for building houses, although the building has private sector, office complex government and private. Data Distanbunak (2014), be treated show peat land to use paddy field experience lowering from 2012 until 2014 around 121 ha, while housing developers who do activities in the area from 2012 to 2014 experience increase round three developers so that peak in the year 2014 there is ten developers who are do activities development on peatland.

Their conversion peatland from year to year, an involvement behaviour farmer which in this matter Emery (2015), suggests that social scientists have long examined the changing role of the individual, and the influence of individualism in social and economic arrangements as well as behavioural decisions, a respect to cooperative behaviour among farmers.

2. Method

Method

This research used a qualitative method with a variety of phenomenology. Qualitative research, phenomenology is research which aims to understand the meaning of individual (Bogdan and Taylor, 1975). It means individual farmers' peat lands with digging farmers interpretation in daily. Especially meaning individual farmer against peatland conversion them to another function.

Technique data collection used three activities; field observation, in depth interview with farmers peatland and documentation secondary data which support research. Research informant used purposive sampling and snowball sampling in select farmers' peatland. Research informant for finding key informants among farmers peatland relevance research purposes.

Data analysis in this research used data analysis, qualitative with interactive model Miles and Huberman (1984). This interactive model consist activities data collection, data reduction, data display and conclusion. Data primary and data secondary be treated through process interactive back and forth among collection, reduction, display and conclusion. Which analysis conducted in continuously until saturated with perform validity data used triangulation method.

3. Results and Discussions

Results

Sub-district Gambut have an area around 129,31 Km2, partially peatland used for paddy field and no paddy field, for no paddy field used for plantation, yard, fishery, housing, office complex and industry. Peat land at sub-district Gambut consist four thickness is thickness peat under 1 meter, thickness peat between 1- 2 meter, thickness peat between 2 - 3 meter and thickness peat above 3 meters.

Thickness peat under 1 meter used in the development paddy field, thickness peat between 1-2 meter used for food crops, thickness peat between 2-3 meter used for plantation crops and thickness peat above 3 meters used for area water infiltration. Sub-district Gambut denote one of the sub-district mainstay rice producer for Banjar regency at south Kalimantan. Meanwhile, sub-district Gambut still domination jobs in farmer sector, which the main job occupant is farmers with land advantage support daily life them.

Farmer peat land used land as paddy field and food crops and *galam* but for *galam* because *galam* include planting a slow growth so that *galam* quickly exhausted yet for fulfillment than growth. Existence *galam* cannot balance the fulfillment interest road construction, housing and office complex, so that *galam* more quickly exhausted than paddy field. The sub-district Gambut *galam* not yet exhausted, so that peat land, an area empty or overgrown small plants.

From year to year peat land experience conversion a land for building houses, although the building has private sector, office complex government and private. Data Distanbunak (2014), be treated show peat land to use paddy field experience lowering from the 2012 until 2014 around 121 ha, while housing developers who do activities in the area from 2012 to 2014 experience increase round three developers so that peak in 2014 there is ten developers who do activities development at peatland.

Farmers tend to sell land to sector, government and sector, private for fulfillment them pervade needs secondary and needs status social farmers in society. Needs secondary as well as Television, radio, and refrigerator while needs status society, farmers in society a worship Haji. Amount farmers have to paddy field from year to year experience change which farmers have to paddy field decreasing be compared farmers not have to paddy field. This change happens because farmers choice other job relevance, their skill, as well as job farmers become farmer tenants other land farmers. This case does by farmers because fill free time.

Discussions

At first sub-district Gambut denote sub-district is enough with green peatland and livelihoods domination people a farmer. But a long time change was becoming a sub-district full of the housing, the office complex and industrial facilities. Housing people from cementitious materials and house building individual, private, which domination a person outside the village.

Meanwhile, office complex who built by the government for administering service public and representative office who built by the private sector to expand them business network. The change conversion land includes the change permanent, which land place established house, office complex and facility industry cannot change become a peat land for use paddy field although area water infiltration.

However, interestingly changes peat land to residential land, office complex and industrial facilities caused by own desire farmers. Farmers become one of from the actor conversion land them. Which the farmers sell his own land to the government and private with voluntary and no because coercion from the government although private sector.

Case Beijing rural households with degrees of concurrent business from low to high, the decision-making factors of rural households' willingness on rural residential land consolidation are diverting along the direction of subsistence to the economy and then to society (Ou Y et.al, 2012).

The farmers often sell their land and wait the increase of the prices and presence highway and other buildings. Their hope the increase is high and support the seller of the land, while low price their delay the land sale. Farmers land was sold with the maximum benefit through logical thinking sale with high price, then partially from money result used to buy new land it is located into from land previously.

Value land price very dependent with located highway, if land near with highway, then land price be expensive and if located land so far from highway, then land price will lowest, moreover the land located have no way. Although new peat land that is located far, but cheap. Farmers are calculation of profit, can buy and have extensive land from peat land previously.

That possession of goods and new performance house denote some are status and prestige family farmers. A family farmers have the goods to be responses local community as successful family. Thereafter money result land sells for need engage worship Haji. That farmers' society is worship Haji engage as duty, such as become social status of a person. Haji can prestige local villages, although a huge no have great wealth. A habit of Haji is the farmers together with family, such as wife and child.

Decision this farmer's land selling become virtue farmers in undergo life daily. Farmers are can't satisfy needs desire through selling land. Sell land was the alternative in increase status in society, which be farmers position in family and society. From all fulfillment needs farmers mentioned as well as buy goods, household, such as television, radio, refrigerator and repair the house and worship Haji accordingly worship Haji more important fulfilled is compare another.

Worship Haji for a Muslim embodiment pillar fifth Islam, mean worship Haji so can reward *pahala* from God in Islam. Subsequently Muslim has titled Haji still be accepted and be valued in society. Someone Haji called as *pak* Haji or *buk* Haji. However, for persons calling Haji without name receive that.

Society in Banjar tends worship Haji is an ideal in life which titled Haji is duty religion in Islam. Someone goes to Makkah, yet assumption does pillar fifth in Islam. The person mentioned calling name, *pak* Haji without call name person that.

4. Conclusions

Farmers sub-district Gambut are taking rational choice be based motif profits calculation through action sale their peat land in government part and private. Rational choice is doing, so that result land sell can be bought new land wider and fertile then increase agricultural production. Other farmers are can increase social status through possession of household goods, repair house them and engage worship Haji.

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